



NEWS

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**Contact: Teresa Lee 415-749-4900
(cell) 415-720-8454**

Third Spare the Air Day of 2001 Declared Unhealthy Air Expected in the Bay Area Friday

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has declared Friday, September 7th as the third Spare the Air day of 2001. A high pressure system along with light winds and escalating temperatures will lead to a build-up of ground level ozone—the main ingredient in smog on Friday, possibly continuing into Saturday. The air is expected to be unhealthy to breathe in parts of the Bay Area.

The Air District urges residents who prepared alternate travel plans for a BART strike to implement their contingency plans for alternate commuting tomorrow. By arranging to take carpools with co-workers or friends, riding transit, taking the ferry or telecommuting, Bay Area residents can help reduce the build-up of ozone.

"People who normally drive to work were ready for a potential BART strike," said Ellen Garvey, the Air District's Executive Officer. "They called RIDES or figured out their own carpool plans. We want these people to utilize that plan for tomorrow. Don't drive alone," Garvey said.

Friday is also a day to conserve electricity—as hot, stagnant weather can also mean high demand on the electrical grid.

Health Precautions

- Vigorous outdoor exercise should be limited to the early morning hours or after sunset when ozone level decrease. Ozone levels are highest in the afternoon hours. Those particularly affected by unhealthy levels of ozone are people with asthma or emphysema, children and exercising adults.

How you can help

- Plan a Spare the Air by telecommuting, carpooling or taking transit to work.
- Light the barbeque without lighter fluid—use a chimney starter, instead.
- Plan ahead and refuel your car tonight after 6 PM.
- Put off yard work if you use gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Conserve electricity – set the air conditioner to higher temperatures.
- Visit our website at www.sparetheair.org for more information.

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